



New Orleans Chapter **Le Journal de Nouvelle Orleans**

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AGA serves government accountability professionals by providing quality education, fostering professional development and certification, and supporting standards and research to advance government accountability.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

So far, we've had two dinner meetings and we're off to a great start. The speaker at our October meeting held at La Rosetta was Dr. Janet Spyserer, Associate Dean for Research College of Business Administration. Her presentation was very interesting as she spoke of the financial status of New Orleans and the economic outlook. I want to personally thank Gerry Knepp for obtaining the outstanding speaker and Knica/Ida for reserving dinner at a fine restaurant on the North Shore. The food and service were excellent.

Linda Lewis and Monique Banks drove to the Mulberry Elementary school, located in Houma, to deliver the donated school supplies to the principal, Mary Ancar. The students and the principal were very happy and appreciated the efforts. Thanks to Linda and Monique for their outstanding hard work and commitment to Community Service. Kudos goes to Erroll Williams and Kraig Kittel for handling the collection and storage of the donated items throughout the school supplies drive. And a special thanks to all who donated the supplies and monies to a very needy and worthwhile cause.

AGA is committed to provide continuing professional education (CPE) hours and support the careers and professional development of government finance professionals working in federal, state and local governments as well as the private sector and academia. I'm pleased to announce that our chapter will be hosting one of many upcoming audio conferences.

On Wednesday, November 12, 2008, Understanding the Importance of Soft Controls in Improving Operations, will be held in the NASA Auditorium from 1:00PM to 2.50 PM CST. The cost is \$30 for members and \$50 for non members. Please contact Chris Lewis at

426-5109 and/or Tracey Rollins at 426-5448 if you have any questions.

I want to remind everyone of the annual AGA Christmas Party which will be held at Smilie's located at 5625 Jefferson Hwy, Harahan, on Thursday, December 11, 2008 from 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM. Hot buffet and Hors D'Oeuvres will be continuously served for three hours along with open bar and Disc Jockey. We hope to have a large turn out.

AGA needs you!

Your membership, support, and participation are critical to the success of this organization. It is our mission to create a professional environment for networking, education, community service, friendship and fun. Please join!!

I hope to see everyone at our November luncheon which will be held on Thursday, November 20th, at the National Finance Center, Executive Dining room. The luncheon begins at 11:30 A.M.

Marcie A. Tureaud

Luncheon Meeting Thursday, November 20, 2008, 11:30 A.M.

**National Finance Center Executive Dining Room
13800 Old Gentilly Road
New Orleans, Louisiana**



\$17.00 Members and Non-members

**SUBJECT: Our Story..Louisiana Department of Revenue
CPE 1 Hour**

**Earl Millet Jr., CPA
Deputy Secretary, Louisiana Department of Revenue**

Deputy Secretary Millet was appointed by Governor Jindal on January 20, 2008. He previously served as the Regional Tax Director for the New Orleans Region, where he directed the activities of the largest regional office in the state. Earl is a seasoned executive with more than 25 years of management and leadership experience. He has also served as a Revenue Senior Agent and a Revenue Agent.

Under his leadership, he coordinated the agency's annual Super Tax Day, which assisted low to moderate income citizens in filing their federal and state individual income tax returns. He also coordinated the Department's Mobile Tax Service (MTS) project, which provides on-site assistance to businesses and tax preparers in the resolution of taxpayers' state tax account matters via a wireless Tablet PC.

Millet holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Xavier University of Louisiana. He is a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Public Manager.

MENU: Roasted Chicken, Baked beans, Cheddar Mash, Coleslaw, Honey Glazed Biscuits & Brownies
Iced Tea, Soft Drinks, Bottled Water

Please email your reservations to: Knica Lloyd, KLloyd@lla.state.la.us; Ida Holmes, IHolmes@stjohn.k12.la.us; or Gary Millet, gary.millet@usda.gov.



AGA Annual Christmas Party

Smilie's

5725 Jefferson Highway
Harahan, LA

Thursday, December 11, 2008

7:00 PM- 10:00 PM

DJ * Open Bar

Hot Buffet and Hors D'Oeuvres

Door Prizes

Members: Free Guests: \$35

Please join us for three hours of fun

Attire: Festive

Please email your reservations to: Knica Lloyd, KLloyd@lla.state.la.us; Ida Holmes, IHolmes@stjohn.k12.la.us; or Gary Millet, gary.millet@usda.gov.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

AGA New Orleans Chapter Community Service Event (Nov. 3 – Nov. 21)

Help Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans AND Acadiana to Fight Hunger and Help Rebuild New Orleans and South Louisiana!

Currently, Second Harvest of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana is leading the fight against hunger in south Louisiana by working with other nonprofits and government agencies to meet the extraordinary needs of a region in recovery. 35 Million Americans are threatened by Hunger; 13 Million are Children; **MANY ARE HUNGRY EVERY DAY!**



Please consider donating can foods and dry goods to this worthy cause.

Tuna, Canned Fish or Meat
Beans/Canned Vegetables/Canned Fruit
Ramen Noodles
Spaghetti Sauce
Hamburger Helper
Soup, Stew, Chili
Coffee, Tea, Kool Aid
Desert Mixes, Pudding, Crackers, Bread

Cooking Oil
Juice, Juice boxes
Peanut Butter/Jelly
Macaroni and Cheese
Boxed Meals/Noodle-Roni
Rice, Lentils, Cereals
Flour, Sugar, Pancake Mix
Ketchup, Mustard, Mayonnaise

For more information contact AGA Community Service Co-chairs

Linda Lewis 504-426-6121 or Monique Banks 504-426-0282

Marcie Tureaud, AGA President, New Orleans Chapter

Monetary donations may be sent to: Association of Government Accountants (AGA), POB 29186, New Orleans, LA 70189-0186, noting AGA Food Drive on the memo line.

To learn more about Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana

Log onto <http://www.no-hunger.org>

AGA GIVES BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

AGA's 1st Annual School Supply Drive was a tremendous success. Enough supplies were collected to assist at least 900 needy students across Terrebonne Parish. Thanks to everyone who donated supplies and assistance with the drive.



Monique Banks (top left) and Linda Lewis (top right) of AGA (New Orleans Chapter) at Mulberry Elementary School, Houma, LA after delivering school supplies to help students affected by Hurricanes Gustave and Ike. Supplies will be distributed to needy students across Terrebonne Parish.

Pictured are students (kneeling) Cody Langlois, Ricky Robichaux, Malcolm Wolfe, Gage Veron, Jeremy Riche' and Scott Giroir. Also shown standing are Ian Hebert and Alex Gilcrease.

MEMBERSHIP

Our goal is to recruit over fifty new members and insure that current members renew their membership. Visits to local Colleges are ongoing as we target student members that would ultimately become professional members after they graduate. Our short and long-term strategy is to introduce AGA to students while they are still weighing in on their professional option after college. We were successful last year in recruiting students and faculty members and we hope to capitalize on last year's successes this coming year. We encourage all AGA members to refer friends, coworkers and professional colleagues to AGA. Remember that recognition/award pin is given to members with most recruitment effort.

Godwin O. Ndukwe
Membership Chair

Please share news about yourself or other AGA members. Contact Godwin Ndukwe at godwinnola@aol.com

AGA'S NEW ORLEANS CHAPTER MEETINGS 2008-2009 (TENTATIVE)

DATE	TIME	PLACE	SPEAKER
November 20, 2008	11:30 A.M.	National Finance Center Executive Dinning Room	Earl Millet Jr., CPA Executive Secretary

		13,800 Old Gentilly Road New Orleans, LA	La. Dept.of Revenue
December 11 th 2008	7:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.	Smiley's 5725 Jefferson Hwy. Harahan, LA	Christmas Party
January 15, 2009	11:30 A.M.	National Finance Center East Side Cafeteria, 13,800 Old Gentilly Rd New Orleans, LA	Internal Revenue Service – Tax Update
February 12, 2009	5:30 P.M.	TBD	Joint Meeting with Baton Rouge AGA Chapter, Sam Mok, AGA Nat'l President
March 19, 2009	5:30 P.M.	Five Happiness Restaurant 3605 S. Carrollton Ave. New Orleans, LA	Joint Meeting with American Society of Women Accountants
April 16, 2009	5:30 P.M.	TBD	TBD
May 21, 2009	5:30 P.M	Green Acres Country Club 5000 W. Napoleon Ave. Metairie, LA	Crawfish Boil
June 19, 2009 (Depends on Schedule)	5:30 P.M.	Zephyr Stadium 6000 Airline Drive Metairie, LA	Chapter Awards Ceremony And Baseball Game

EDUCATIONAL

Take the CGFM Examinations before the NLC

Don't miss the opportunity to take the CGFM Examinations and earn your CGFM before the annual National Leadership Conference (NLC) in Washington D.C. AGA is offering a two-day Intensive Review Course on Monday, February 16, and Tuesday, February 17, 2009 and an opportunity to take CGFM Examinations on February 18-19, 2009. The cost of the course is only \$249 for qualified participants, and it offers 18 CPE hours. Special Bonus: the CGFM Examinations are offered at no cost to course attendees.

This course is designed as a supplement to previous preparation for the CGFM Examinations, so this is a perfect opportunity for those individuals who have already attended GFM training courses or have been preparing by using the CGFM Study Guides. Enrollment is limited and participants must first apply and be accepted into the CGFM Program, so don't delay.

More information and a registration form for this event are available at http://www.agacgfm.org/nlc_2009/cgfm_exams.htm

Why Certification Matters. Why CGFM.

By: John Radford, CGFM, CIA, CFE, Oregon State Controller

People often ask me why certification is important. I tell them it's all about accountability.

Employers prefer staff members who are certified because they have undergone a rigorous testing

procedure, proving they have specialized skills and knowledge. Certification also shows that the employees are committed to continuing their professional education and upholding high ethical standards—requirements for maintaining their credential.

The pluses extend beyond the workplace, though. Citizens benefit from knowing the public's work is being done by professionals who have demonstrated their expertise. Certification boosts public confidence in government.

That's why I'm a big supporter of AGA's Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) certification. If there was a Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval for government finance professionals, this would be it. The CGFM is the mark of excellence. It is fast becoming the certification of choice for financial and fiscal employees at all levels of government.

Earning the CGFM requires a bachelor's degree, a minimum of two years of professional level government financial management experience, and passing three tough examinations that cover all three levels of government. Passing the exams is just the beginning. CGFMs must follow AGA's strict Code of Ethics and complete at least 80 hours of Continuing Professional Education (CPE) every two years.

Anyone who works in government finance will tell you that their work differs significantly from what their counterparts are doing in the public sector. People who have passed the exams tell me that the process has helped them see more clearly how all the pieces of government financial processes fit together.

William D. Brown, who earned his CGFM credential after more than 20 years in New Jersey's most challenging fiscal offices, says: "If you are planning a career in government fiscal management, you need to earn this certification. It is the only program broad enough to measure the knowledge needed by today's professionals at the federal, state and local levels."

The demands on government financial managers are only going to increase. No longer relegated to back rooms, finance professionals are key members of decision-making teams for government programs. Government financial managers are constantly updating their skills to make financial information reliable, instantly accessible, and easy for program managers to understand to make everyday decisions and plan for the long term.

The field of government financial management will be far different tomorrow from what it is today. Having broad knowledge, a recognized professional designation and a requirement to stay abreast of the latest developments will be the way to distinguish you from the crowd.

Governments across the country are likely now entering a period of potentially great change. Our national regulatory environment may change, well known human capital challenges are already being felt, and state agencies may face renewed calls for efficiency and effectiveness. Now may be the time for state agencies and employees to consider making a commitment to the AGA's CGFM program.

AGA Audio Conference

AGA serves government accountability professionals by providing quality education, fostering professional development and certification, and supporting standards and research to advance government accountability.

AGA is committed to provide continuing professional education (CPE) hours and support the careers and professional development of government finance professionals working in federal, state and local governments

as well as the private sector and academia.

We invite all financial, security, IT, accountants, program analysts, auditors, managers and employees to participate in this audio conference.

The New Orleans Chapter is pleased to present an audio tele-conference:

Understanding the Importance of Soft Internal Controls in Improving Operations

Location: NASA MAF Auditorium, Post P31

When: Wednesday, November 12, 2008

Time: 1:00 PM – 2:50 PM CST

Cost: \$30 (members) \$50 (non-members)

CPE credit Hours: 2 Hours

AGA, in conjunction with the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers (NASACT) and the Association of Local Government Auditors (ALGA) is pleased to announce a new and increasingly important topic to our audio conference schedule—the role that *Soft Internal Controls* plays in an organization.

View “soft controls” in a way that goes beyond current accepted models. Hear why soft controls are a required component of effective management and what has made them so difficult to implement. Learn how certain research on employee motivation suggests using soft controls to recognize opportunities to improve organization performance. *Discover why “soft controls” may be a misnomer* and explore the concept of “behavioral controls” as a better way to detect and prevent the opportunity for fraud to occur.

To share their practical experiences in auditing and teaching about the role of soft internal controls is **Mark B. Mitchell, MBA, CGFM, CIA**, Audit Director, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, and **Michael L. Piazza, MBA**, Director of Program Development and Training for the Institute of Internal Controls.

Please join us for two hours of lively discussion about this important and timely topic. In addition to the speaker’s commentary, there will be approximately 20 minutes for Q & A so that the participants can ask the speaker questions and share their own experiences.

Please provide the Request, Authorization Agreement & Certification of Training form, SF-182’s of employees that will be participating in this audio conference, by COB **November 7, 2008** to Darrell Dupuy. Please call **Tracey Rollins (6-5448)** or **Chris Lewis (6-5109)** if there are any questions.

**NEW ORLEANS CHAPTER
ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS**

**STATEMENT OF NET
ASSETS**

August 31, 2008

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS:

Cash	\$ 450.86
Savings	1,860.14
Accounts Receivable	5,166.00
Deposit – Restaurants	.00
Prepaid Seminar Expenses	.00
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$7,477.00</u>

**LIABILITIES AND NET
ASSETS**

Accounts Payable .00

NET ASSETS:

Hurricane Relief Fund	\$2,709.25
Membership Recruitment	300.00
Habitat Project Funds	243.47
Unrestricted net assets	<u>4,224.28</u>

**TOTAL LIABILITIES
AND NET ASSETS** **\$7,477.00**

Katrina Relief Fund (Details)

Donations Received	+\$10,661.50
Member Dues Rebate	4,638.50
Members Meeting Subsidy	2,328.75
Audio Conf. Subsidy	435.00
April Spring Seminar	875.00

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES,
EXPENSES**

For 2 months ended to August 31, 2008

OPERATING REVENUES

Education/Training	\$0.00
Business Meetings	0.00
50/50 Raffle	0.00
Membership Dues	0.00
Donations	0.00
Interest Income	.14
Total operating revenue	<u>\$.14</u>

OPERATING EXPENSES

Education/Training	\$0.00
Business Meetings	0.00
Speakers Gifts	0.00
AGA PDC Raffle Basket	0.00
50/50 Raffle	0.00
Postage/Supplies/Gifts	0.00
Bank Charges	0.00
Scholarship Winner	0.00
Donations	0.00
Officer Awards	<u>0.00</u>

Total operating expenses **\$0.00**

OPERATING INCOME (LOSS) **\$.14**

**NONOPERATING REVENUES
(EXPENSES)** **.00**

**INCOME (LOSS) BEFORE
CONTRIBUTIONS** **\$.14**

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS **.14**

**NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING
OF PERIOD** **\$4,224.14**

Remaining Balance \$2,709.25

**NET ASSETS AT END OF
PERIOD** **\$4,224.28**

RECOGNITION POINTS 2008-2009

Recognition Categories	Max Credits Per Category	Credits Through Sept. 2008
Communications	3,000	1,455
Membership	3,000	75
Community Service	2,000	0
Awards	1,000	200
Chapter Leadership, Planning/ Participation	3,000	2,000
Education & Professional Development	4,000	200
Certification	4,000	275
Total	20,000	4,205



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